

## Approximate Time Requirements to Maintain On-Call, Volunteer, Active Status on the City of West Des Moines Fire Department

08/2004

The City of West Des Moines Fire Department offers an excellent opportunity for individuals to become part of a close knit team. A variety of experiences that can enhance an individual's life and personal growth are available, but also take time and commitment. The days of joining a fire department and simply responding to emergencies, is a thing of the past. If you are willing and able to contribute to our team, opportunities abound to make a difference in your life.

### **APPLICATION PROCESS:** (must live within or near the City of West Des Moines)

- a) Submit written application (sometimes a 6-9 month waiting period)
- b) Invitation to participate in applicant assessment
- c) Oral Interview
- d) Physical Abilities (evaluates physical conditioning and stamina)
- e) Background Checks- (extensive driving violations or criminal history will likely be cause for termination of the application process).
- f) Medical Physical (based on a national fire fighter standard) Paid by the City.
- g) Acceptance- then candidate enters the "qualifications" phase. Includes an Intensive "Drill School" for your safety and knowledge.

### **QUALIFICATIONS:** Requirements to obtain "hot zone" entry status (drill school): (Includes a one year probationary period)

- a) Drill School - Approximately **150 hours** of classroom/training ground time.  
Normally held on two weekday evenings from 6-10 p.m. with 3-4 Saturday or Sunday sessions during the day. State of Iowa Fire Fighter I and II certifications must be obtained. Fire training is then followed by EMT-B (EMS) training. Drill schools are normally started once per year (Usually in the Fall and last about 4 months.)

**ACTIVE STATUS:** When the first year probationary period is completed successfully, you will be expected to continue maintaining the following minimum attendance requirements.

10-15% of all Pager Activated Emergencies, except EMS Assist Incidents (Most F/Fs average approx. 25 calls per month) which could equate to **approximately 5 hours per week**. Essentially, unless at your full-time occupation, you are expected to respond to the fire station when paged 24 hours a day/7 days a week.

36 drills are scheduled each year and you are allowed to miss 4 unexcused absences only.  
**This equates to 3 hours per week.**

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Other activities you are encouraged to participate in:

- a) Annual Fire Station Open House (in conjunction with Fire Prevention Week)
- b) Semi- Annual Station and Apparatus Cleaning (usually a Saturday or evening)
- c) Monthly Association Meeting (usually the first Wednesday of the month instead of a drill)
- d) Special assignments/parties/events as developed by station officers

### **ENCOURAGED ADVANCEMENT:**

There is a wealth of opportunities to get involved in various projects, committees, advance certifications and emergency response specialties:

- 1) Monthly F/F Association Meetings (1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday) 7-9 p.m.
- 2) EMS / First Responder Program (close affiliation with City EMS services)
- 3) Driver/Operators
- 4) Specialty Teams (Dive/Rescue; Confined Space; Rope Rescue, etc.)
- 5) Training Bureau
- 6) Fire Prevention Bureau
- 7) Outside Training Opportunities (weekend classes, seminars and conferences)
- 8) Community Projects (special events, presentations/demonstrations, etc.)
- 9) Promotional Opportunities or Association Board positions

**Career Fire Fighter Positions:** Career fire fighter position vacancies are limited and very competitive. Experience as an on-call, volunteer usually provides background that helps with testing or interview assessments. On-Call Volunteer Fire Fighters should not expect special consideration when positions are open. The City of West Des Moines is an Equal Opportunity employer.

Due to safety, training and teamwork considerations, members not able to maintain their active status will be dismissed from the department.

Being a West Des Moines On-Call, Volunteer Fire Fighter requires commitment, dedication and interest. The rewards are invaluable and members enjoy a close “extended-family” environment that promotes fun with hard work. We hope you will consider making the commitment.

For more information or clarification of any of these points, please call Fire Administration at 222-3420 during normal business hours.